

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	258122
Inspection date	05 November 2007
Inspector	Jean Goodrick
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Childminding

ABOUT THIS INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality of childcare and, if applicable, of nursery education. The inspection was carried out under Part XA Children Act 1989 as introduced by the Care Standards Act 2000 and, where nursery education is provided, under Schedule 26 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004; the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding; and, where nursery education is provided, the *Curriculum guidance for the foundation stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration or 1 April 2004 whichever is the later.

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough

For more information about early years inspections, please see the booklet *Are you ready for your inspection?* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since 1995. She lives with her family, which includes children aged between 10 and 17 years, in a village to the north of Cambridge. She uses mainly the downstairs area of her home for childminding. There is an enclosed outdoor play area.

The childminder is registered to care for four children under eight years at any one time. She is currently minding two children under five years.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and she regularly attends local toddler groups.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a good range of energetic physical activities which contribute to a healthy lifestyle. The childminder ensures that children have plenty of fresh air as they walk to the local toddler group and on other outings. They develop their physical skills as, for example, they use

the play equipment in the park and play ball games. Children rest and sleep according to their individual routines.

Children learn the importance of good personal hygiene through regular daily routines. They wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating, using their own towel. The childminder acts as a good role model. She also keeps the environment clean and tidy so that cross-infection is minimised. If the children need to take any medicines or become unwell whilst they are in the care of the childminder, up to date records are in place to make sure that they are well cared for. The childminder has a current first aid certificate so that she is confident to take action for the welfare of the children.

Children benefit from the childminder's good knowledge and understanding of childhood nutrition. Meals are freshly cooked and include vegetables and fruit. The childminder sits with the children so that meals and snacks are pleasant social occasions when children develop their social skills. Babies' feeding routines are followed conscientiously.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe, secure environment where risks are minimised and they move around safely under the childminder's constant supervision. The childminder helps children learn how to keep themselves safe, indoors and outside. They learn about road safety on local walks. Smoke alarms are tested regularly and the childminder has an accessible fire blanket in the kitchen. Stair gates are used effectively. Children's welfare in an emergency is a priority and the childminder carries relevant information when she is outside the home.

Children have use of an extensive range of good quality, age-appropriate toys, equipment and resources. These are well organised to encourage choice and independence and they are checked regularly for safety and hygiene. Children follow their own interests and imaginative games.

Children's overall welfare and protection is maintained by procedures and documents that promote their safety. For example, the childminder has a secure knowledge and understanding of her responsibilities and of the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their time with the childminder and establish warm and affectionate relationships with her. They are settled and confident and they have consistent daily routines which help them to feel secure. The childminder responds to the children's interests with warmth and enthusiasm. She sits on the floor and joins in their games and children snuggle in for stories and rhymes. Children develop their language skills and vocabulary as the childminder listens and responds and questions them skilfully. They also enjoy the company of the childminder's older children. The childminder follows children's interests as, for example, they really enjoy regular outdoor activities such as playing ball games and helping in the garden. Children enjoy outings to the local swimming pool and trips to the zoo. Train rides to Ely to feed the ducks are also popular events.

The childminder has a good understanding of child development and uses the 'Birth to three matters' framework as a reference tool which enables her to offer a varied range of activities for children which are stimulating and fun. She makes very good use of community groups and

other local resources to extend children's experiences and promote their social development. Babies and toddlers receive warm, sensitive personal care.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are highly valued as individuals. All children are welcomed and included in the provision. The childminder gets to know children and their families well so that children have a good sense of belonging. She has some resources and activities which reflect a diverse society and help children to learn about their differences and similarities. Children learn about the wider world on local outings. The childminder is not currently caring for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities but she is aware of the need to work in partnership with parents and other agencies. She has worked as a children's nurse and therefore has relevant experience in this area.

Children behave well. The childminder has clear consistent rules and she helps children understand expectations of their behaviour according to their age and understanding. She gives plenty of praise and encourages children to play together cooperatively. Some difficulties with behaviour management in the past were discussed and this has been identified as an area for professional development.

The childminder has good partnerships with parents. They show great appreciation for the care their children receive saying, for example, 'Our child is made to feel like part of the family'. The childminder has a clear information pack which is shown to parents at the beginning of their arrangement and she exchanges information with parents on a daily basis. The childminder supports families flexibly in the transition from home.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder uses time, space, including outdoor space, and resources effectively to provide a stimulating and caring environment for children. Children benefit from consistent routines and sensitive support so that they feel secure and have a sense of belonging. They have time to rest and time to be active. The childminder is very experienced in childcare and is open to new learning to improve her practice for the benefit of all the children.

The childminder has a sound and secure knowledge of child development and of her legal duties. Records are kept up to date so that children receive good continuity of care. The childminder has a professional framework of policies and procedures which contribute to children's health and safety. She ensures that children are never left with anyone who has not been vetted. Confidentiality is respected. Information is shared with parents so they know about the provision and the care their children receive.

Overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection it was agreed that the childminder would improve safety in her home by ensuring potential hazards were made safe. Children benefit from improved safety measures as low level glass is covered with safety film and an accessible cupboard is locked.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- develop knowledge and understanding of behaviour management strategies.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education* (HMI ref no 2599) which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk